Colour TV Studio at Vijayawada

1859. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have purchased/acquired the land to construct the proposed colour T.V. Studio at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the site and the probable date of completion of TV studio; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Technical survey of the possible sites has been carried out and some alternatives have been identified. The implementation of the project will depend on the annual allocation of Plan funds and availability of land at suitable site. Normally, completion of such a project takes about 3-4 years after commencement of works.

Export of tea to Iran

†1860. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to sttae:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian companies exported tea to Iran through the Trading Corporation of Iran during 1986 in an irregular manner;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry is being made into the matter; and

(c) if so, what is the result of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Replacing fuel wood by mineral fuel

1861. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) if so, whether Government aware that cutting of trees for fuel wood in forests may resu·t in new deserts; and

(b) if so. whether Government propose to supply mineral fuel at a concessional price in order to replace fuel wood in the villages and rural parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Government is aware that cutting of trees for fuel wood and oher purposes in forests may result in ecological damage and soil erosion. The extent of damage will clearly depend on how much deforestation has already taken and is taking place in violation of Silvicultural principles. Excessive damage can lead to desertification.

(b) Government proposes to supply mineral fuel to the extent possible in the villages and rural parts of the country. To make soft coke available at a subsidised rate, Government has fixed the sale price of soft coke for domestic consumption at Rs. 175 per tonne against Rs. 300/- per tonne for industries (current price effective from 9-1-1986). Presently, kerosene oil is supplied for domestic cooking and lighting purposes all over the country including rural areas at a subsidised price.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1549 transferred from the 10th March, 1987